

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-06 EUR-10 IO-03 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 DRC-01 AID-05 /080 W

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R 101807Z OCT 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH 0203

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: PRG HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS

1. THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE PARIS BILATERALS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 10, THEIR FIRST IN SEVERAL MONTHS, AT WHICH MR. DINH BA THI, THE DELEGATION'S HEAD, SHARPLY CRITICIZED BOTH THE GVN AND THE U.S.G. ABOUT SIXTY PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT.

2. THI DISTRIBUTED THREE DOCUMENTS. THE FIRST WAS THE FRENCH TEXT OF THE PRG STATEMENT ON "THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM" RELEASED OCTOBER 8 (SEE FBIS BANGKOK 081801 AND SAIGON TEL 13064). THE SECOND WAS A DECLARATION IN THI'S NAME ATTACKING THE U.S.G. FOR "PURSUING THE OLD NIXONIAN POLICY". AMONG OTHER POINTS, IT CRITICIZED THE REMARKS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITIES OF REINTRODUCING U.S. FORCES INTO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONFLICT. THI'S DECLARATION ALSO CALLED FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY A GOVERNMENT THAT "FAVORS PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL CONCORD." THE THIRD HANDOUT CONDEMNED US "PRESSURE" ON A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES FOR MULTILATERAL AID TO THE GVN, A THEME

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THAT THI ELABORATED UPON IN HIS OWN DECLARATION. HE

CALLED SUCH AID "UNDER WHATEVER FORM" A PARTICIPATION
IN A "POLICY OF NEO-COLONIALIST AGGRESSION."

3. IN A BRIEF QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD THI SAID
THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GVN AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED
CANNOT POSSIBLY BRING A SETTLEMENT. THUS, ANY
STATEMENT FROM GVN REPRESENTATIVES, EVEN FOR THE
RESUMPTION OF THE BILATERAL TALKS, WOULD ONLY BE AIMED
AT "MISLEADING PUBLIC OPINION." THI ALSO TOUCHED UPON
ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE
OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS. WHILE PRAISING THE RECENT
ANTI-THIEU MANIFESTATIONS, HE IMPLICITLY ENDORSED THE
CHARGE OF POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT. HE STATED, HOWEVER,
THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE VIGILANT AND CAN
EXPOSE SUCH "PERFIDIOUS CONSPIRACIES."

4. THE HEAD OF THE GVN DELEGATION TO THE BILATERALS
MR. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, QUICKLY RESPONDED TO THI'S
PRESS CONFERENCE. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TO AFP, HE
SINGLED OUT THI'S IMPLIED REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER
WITH THE GVN, SAYING: "PARALLEL WITH CONTINUED
VIOLATIONS OF THE MILITARY CLAUSES OF THE CEASEFIRE
ACCORDS, THE COMMUNIST SIDE DECLARES PUBLICLY THAT
IT WILL NOT RESPECT THE POLITICAL CLAUSES OF THIS
ACCORD."

5. COMMENTS: THE ABOVE PRG STATEMENTS SEEM TIMED
LARGELY TO EXPLOIT THE RECENT OPPOSITIONIST MOVEMENTS
IN SOUTH VIETNAM. IN THE OPINION OF GVN DELEGATION
HEAD NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, WHO SPOKE TO MISSION OFFICERS
LATER, THE CONFERENCE WAS A MANEUVER TO WEAKEN THE
GVN INTERNALLY AND ALSO TO INCREASE THE RELUCTANCE

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OF THE US CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AN ALLEGEDLY
DETERIORATING AND REPRESSIVE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO BELIEVES IT IS NOW CLEARER THAN
EVER THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAS NO INTEREST IN
NEGOTIATING IN THE PARIS BILATERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
FORSEEABLE FUTURE. IN ADDITION, DENUNCIATION AGAIN OF
MULTILATERAL AID COMES JUST BEFORE OCTOBER 16,
INDOCHINA DONORS' MEETING.

6. DINH BA THI'S REMARKS ABOUT ALLEGED CIA
INVOLVEMENT WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPPOSITIONISTS SHOW
A NOTICEABLE AMBIGUITY. APPARENTLY HE WANTED TO
ENDORSE THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME
MAKE IT SEEM THAT THE UNITED STATES MAY BE USING THEM
TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION. HE WAS
NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING THESE CONTRADICTIONARY
POINTS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

7. USDEL IS POUCHING TO ADDRESSEES COPIES OF THE
DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED BY THE PRG.
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Message Attributes

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